GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3763
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2017
Viral Hepatitis Infections
Devi Smt. Rama

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether cases of viral hepatitis infections are on the rise in different parts of the country including Bihar and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of various types of hepatitis infections reported during the last three years and the current year, type and State/UT-wise;

(c) whether viral hepatitis is a major public health concern in the country and is hyper endemic for HAV and HEV and if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and utilized for its prevention and cure during the last three years, State/ UT-wise; and

(d) the details of efforts taken by the Government to take rapid action to create awareness about the disease and to increase access for screening and treatment services?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a) & (b): Yes. The number of cases due to Viral Hepatitis as reported by the States/UTs to Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) in the last three years is given at Annexure I. Separate figures for various types of Hepatitis are not collected at present.
(c): Yes, Viral Hepatitis is a major public health problem in the country and surveillance can describe trends in type specific acute hepatitis including HAV and HEV. A National Programme on Surveillance of Viral Hepatitis under the 12th Five Year Plan has been launched by the Government with an estimated budget of 30 crore. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi is coordinating the various activities under this programme. The initial funds have been released to NCDC and the surveillance activities have been initiated.
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NCDC also provides technical guidance to State Governments/UTs on prevention and control of water borne diseases including Hepatitis, and helps them in carrying out investigation of outbreaks of such diseases under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). NCDC also provides laboratory support for outbreak investigations and etiological diagnosis besides conducting regular training courses for development of trained manpower. Funds are released to States/UTs under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) to strengthen surveillance and to detect and respond to outbreaks of epidemic-prone diseases. The detail of funds released and expenditure incurred to States/UTs during last three years and current year are at Annexure II.
(d): The main cause of Hepatitis A & E is consumption of contaminated water and provision of safe drinking water is the main strategy to control diseases caused by drinking of contaminated water. Rural water supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water supply facilities in rural areas of the country.
Hepatitis B vaccination is included under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) of Government of India. Government is using auto-disabled (AD) syringes for all vaccinations under the UIP in all States. AD syringes are single use, self-locking syringes that cannot be used more than once. This prevents misuse and contamination/cross infection through repeated use of unsterile injection/equipment.
Screening of blood reduces the risk of transmission of Hepatitis B and C by blood transfusion. Therefore, blood banks mandatorily screen for Hepatitis B & C as per Drug & Cosmetics Act 1940 and rules thereof.
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